

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

505 B4 >
1. An image processing apparatus which comprises:
detecting means for detecting information relating
to invisible copyright from image data which is input;

5

and

control means for controlling the print of said
image data according to information relating to said
detected copyright.

10

2. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the information relating to said
invisible copyright is digital watermark information.

15

3. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said control means prohibits said
print.

20

4. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said control means prohibits the
output of said image data to a printer which performs
said print.

25

5. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said control means outputs a control
signal which gives said image data to a printer which
performs said print to prohibit the print of said image
data.

Sub A >

6. The image processing apparatus which farther comprises identifying means for identifying a password embedded in said image data, wherein said control means permits the print of an image which corresponds to said image data when the same password as said password is input.

Sub B, >

7. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, farther comprising:

10 ID detecting means for detecting ID information in order to identify said image data from said image data; inputting means for inputting a password by a user; and

15 receiving means for sending said ID information and a password to an author's side device to receive information of print permission for said image formation.

20 8. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1 which further comprises instructing means for instructing acceptance for accounting for the print using said image data to an author's side device, wherein said control means permits the print of said image data in response to said instruction.

25 9. An image processing apparatus which comprises: detecting means for detecting a digital watermark

14. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said data is data of another produce of a composer who has written a musical note corresponding to said image data.

5

15. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said data is data of another produce of an author who has written a book according to said image data.

10

16. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said data is data of another produce of an photographer who has taken a photograph corresponding to said image data.

15

17. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said address comprises a plurality of addresses and said data receiving means receives a data list from a plurality of devices.

20

18. An image processing method which comprises:
a step of detecting information relating to invisible copyright from input image data by detecting means; and

25

a step of controlling the print of said image data according to information relating to said detected copyright by control means.

